

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for writing and reproducing data comprising:
processing means for processing inputted data and producing processed data;
storage means for storing said processed data in a storage medium;
decompression means for decompressing processed data stored in said storage medium
and producing decompressed data;
reproducing means for reproducing said decompressed data; and
control means for controlling said storage means to store said processed data in said
storage medium during reproducing of said decompressed data by said reproducing means.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means includes means for
compressing said inputted data and producing compressed data.
3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said storage means stores said compressed
data in said storage medium and said decompression means decompresses said compressed data
stored in said storage medium.
4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said storage means stores said compressed
data in said storage medium and said decompression means decompresses other compressed data,
which is different from said compressed data, also stored in said storage medium.
5. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said processing means compresses said
inputted data into MPEG format.
6. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said processing means compresses said
inputted data into ATRAC format.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means comprises a converting means for converting a format of said inputted data.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said inputted data is compressed in a predetermined compression format and said converting means comprises second decompression means for decompressing said inputted compressed data and a compression means for compressing said decompressed data in another compression format.

9. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a reading-out means for reading-out data stored in a second storage medium and producing read-out data, wherein said processing means inputs said read-out data and processes said read-out data.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second storage medium comprises a disc-shaped storage medium.

11. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second storage medium comprises a non-volatile memory.

12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means includes means for processing data inputted from an external source via communication lines.

13. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reading-out means for reading-out data stored in said storage medium therefrom at a predetermined reading-out data rate,

wherein said control means controls said storage means to write said processed data at a faster writing data rate than said predetermined reading-out data rate.

14. An apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a buffer memory for temporarily storing said data read-out from said storage medium,

wherein said control means controls stopping writing of said processed data in said storage medium by said storage means and controls said reading-out means to read-out said stored data from said storage medium when said stored data in said buffer memory is less than a predetermined amount.

15. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a removable medium.

16. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium is a portable medium.

17. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium comprises a hard disk.

18. An apparatus for writing and reproducing data comprising:
converting means for converting inputted compression data of a first compression format into data of a second compression format;
outputting means for outputting converted data converted by said converting means;
reproducing means for reproducing data corresponding to said converted data; and
control means for controlling said outputting means to output said converted data during reproducing of said data by said reproducing means.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said converting means comprises decompression means for decompressing said inputted compression data and compression means for compressing said decompressed data into said data of said second compression format.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said reproducing means reproduces said decompressed data decompressed by said decompression means.

21. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said outputting means writes said converted data in a storage medium, and said apparatus further comprises:

reading-out means for reading-out said data of said second compression format stored in said storage medium from said storage medium; and

second decompression means for decompressing said read-out compression data, wherein said reproducing means reproduces decompressed data decompressed by said second decompression means.

22. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said converting means compresses said inputted data into MPEG format.

23. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said converting means compresses said inputted compression data into compression data of ATRAC format.

24. An apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising reading-out means for reading-out compression data stored in a storage medium,

wherein said converting means converts said read-out compression data of said first compression format to said data of said second compression format.

25. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said storage medium comprises a disc-shaped storage medium.

26. An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said storage medium comprises a non-volatile memory.

27. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said converting means converts said compression data inputted from an external source via communication lines.

28. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said reading-out means reads-out said

compression data of said second compression format stored in said storage medium at a predetermined reading-out data rate and said control means controls said outputting means to write said said compression data of said second compression format at a faster writing data rate than said predetermined reading-out data rate.

29. An apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising a buffer memory for storing said data read-out from said storage medium temporarily,

wherein said control means controls said outputting means to stop writing said converted data in said storage medium and said reading-out means to read-out said stored data from said storage medium when said stored data in said buffer memory is less than a predetermined amount.

30. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said storage medium is a removable medium.

31. An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium is a portable medium.

32. An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said storage medium comprises a hard disk.

33. An apparatus for writing and reproducing data comprising:
processing means for processing inputted data according to a predetermined requirement;
outputting means for outputting data supplied from said processing means;
reproducing means for reproducing supplied data supplied by said output means; and
control means for controlling said outputting means to output said supplied data during reproducing of said supplied data by said reproducing means.

34. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means includes means for decompressing said inputted data, wherein when said inputted data is compressed in a

compression format, and said means for decompressing performs a decompression process corresponding to said compression format and produces decompressed data, and wherein said reproducing means reproduces said decompressed data.

35. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said reproducing means reproduces, when said inputted data is uncompressed data, said uncompression data supplied through said processing means.

36. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said outputting means outputs, when said inputted data is compressed data, said compression data supplied through said processing means.

37. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein, when said inputted data is uncompressed data, said processing means compresses said uncompression data in a desired compression format and said outputting means outputs compressed data from said processing means.

38. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said outputting means writes said supplied data in a storage medium, and said apparatus further comprises:

reading-out means for reading-out data stored in said storage medium, and said control means controls said reading-out means to read-out data stored in said storage medium that is different from said supplied data and controls said reproducing means to reproduce said read-out data during writing of said supplied data in said storage medium by said outputting means.

39. An apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said reading-out means reads-out data stored in said storage medium at a predetermined reading-out data rate and said control means controls said outputting means to write said supplied data at a faster writing data rate than said predetermined reading-out data rate in said storage medium.

40. An apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a buffer memory for storing

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41. An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said storage medium is a removable medium.

43. An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said storage medium comprises a hard disk.

45. An apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said storage medium comprises a disc-shaped storage medium.

47. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means processes data inputted from an external source via communication lines.

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49. An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means compresses said inputted data into ATRAC format.

50. A method for writing and reproducing data comprising the steps of:
processing inputted data and producing processed data;
storing said processed data in a storage medium;
decompressing processed data stored in said storage medium;
reproducing decompressed data obtained in said step of decompressing; and
controlling storing of said processed data in said storage medium during reproducing of said decompressed data.

51. A method for writing and reproducing data comprising the steps of:
converting inputted compression data of a first compression format into converted data of a second compression format;
outputting said converted data;
reproducing data corresponding to said converted data; and
controlling outputting of said converted data during reproducing of said converted data.

52. A method for writing and reproducing data comprising the steps of:
processing inputted data as required;
outputting supplied data supplied from said processing means;
reproducing said supplied data; and
controlling outputting of said supplied data during reproducing of said supplied data.